

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive. Currently, I am forced to pay for both cable and satellite in order to view my local channels.

Just as important to me, I can not receive over-the-air broadcasts and so cannot enjoy the HDTV signals that are being broadcast in my market. With the additional spectrum that will be freed up in this merger, DBS will be able to provide me with sufficient HD source material to allow me to enjoy the benefits of the widescreen HDTV I have purchased. Hopefully, the merged company will provide the East Coast and/or West Coast feeds of the major networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, etc.) in HD.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Eric Gangloff
790 Ida Court Box 8437
Incline Village, NV 89451